

people, their families, and their communities.”

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Earlier this week, concerned citizens throughout the world solemnly remembered the history of the Holocaust and recognized the victims and those who survived this tragedy. Upon this one day, we remember those that suffered, those that fought, and those that died. Six million Jews were murdered. Many families were completely decimated.

Between September 1, 1939, when Nazi troops invaded Poland, and Germany's surrender on May 8, 1945, Hitler waged two wars. One was against Allied forces on three continents. The other was against the Jews in the form of the Holocaust.

In the years since, descendants of Jewish immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this Nation and throughout the world. In my district, there is a significant population of Jewish survivors and their families that showed heroic bravery and a will to live.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more powerful than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. By honoring the Holocaust Remembrance Day, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities, and therefore we ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are properly understood and acknowledged. As it has been over 60 years since the Holocaust, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER CARL
GORDON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great doctor who has devoted his life to serving his countrymen—Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr.

At the age of 78, Dr. Gordon is retiring after nearly 40 years practicing medicine. He has served his community and his country throughout his entire life, all the while blazing new trails for those who would follow him.

Born on October 25, 1927 in Albany, Georgia, Dr. Gordon earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton Institute and then his Master of Science in chemistry from Tuskegee Institute. Before attending medical school, he spent several years teaching chemistry at Lincoln University and Albany State University. In 1955, he graduated from Meharry Medical College and began to serve his country on another level.

The young Dr. Gordon joined the United States Army and was stationed at Letterman

Army Hospital in San Francisco for his first internship. He later completed his surgical residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. He became the first African-American surgeon at Walter Reed, the Army's most distinguished medical center.

Dr. Gordon was sent to Vietnam where he was given command of an evacuation hospital. There he helped to develop a new, revolutionary approach to surgery which contributed to saving the lives of countless American servicemen. He was awarded three Army Commendation Medals and one Legion of Merit award for his service, and retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel. But Dr. Gordon's service was not over.

In 1981 he rejoined the military to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves. He served beyond the call for another decade before retiring with the rank of Colonel.

While still serving in the Reserves, Dr. Gordon practiced medicine in Albany, Georgia at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. He worked for one year as the Chief of Staff and for two terms as the chairman of the Hospital's board. In 2005, the Board awarded him the title of "Board Member Emeritus."

In 2003, Dr. Gordon joined the Hospital staff as a primary care physician at the VA Clinic. Since then he has diligently served the veteran population of Southwest Georgia. He has never forgotten the men and women who have, like him, worn the uniform of this great nation.

Whether serving in Washington, D.C., Vietnam or Albany, Dr. Gordon has performed his service with honor, courage and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all.

Today, we thank and honor Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. for his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. On the occasion of his retirement from the field of medicine, we wish for him the joyous, healthy and tranquil life that he so richly deserves. Dr. Gordon is a healer and a patriot and we applaud his lifetime of service.

HONORING COURAGE OF FIRST
MARINES TO SCALE SUMMIT OF
MT. SURIBACHI

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of the first United States Marines to scale the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima is a small rocky island only two miles wide and four miles long located approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan. It is a volcanic island, much like the islands of my home state of Hawaii. A place where cool Pacific breezes rush over soft beaches and birds sing songs learned during lonely flights across the wide ocean.

For a brief moment in time, the Island of Iwo Jima became the central battleground between the Empire of Japan and the Allied Forces during those terrible and dark days of World War II. The Allied Forces were determined to take the island in preparation for a final attack on Japan, and the Japanese were

unbendable in their desire to defend Iwo Jima and to prevent the Allies from moving any closer to the main islands of Japan.

On February 19, 1945, approximately 70,000 American and other Allied Forces and 22,000 Japanese soldiers locked themselves in a horrific battle that would begin the final phase of the War in the Pacific. Entrenched in a series of interlocking caves, blockhouses, and pillboxes, the Japanese fought with determination to defend their island. Debarking off a naval armada of more than 450 ships, the Allies, led by the United States, brought the full weight of their highly trained and battle-tested troops to bear with the determined goal of taking the rocky island no matter what the cost. The battle for Iwo Jima would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. 6,821 Marines were killed in action, and 19,217 Marines were wounded. Of the 22,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

On February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, Marines from the 5th Division were ordered to ascend the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, the main peak controlling the island. Four Marine squads worked their way up the mountain and, at 10:30 a.m., the officer in charge, 1st Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, along with the platoon leader, Sergeant Ernest Thomas, and Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Radioman, Private First Class Raymond E. Jacobs, Private James R. Michels, Private Philip L. Ward, and Corpsman, PhMac John H. Bradley, raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi.

Today, when our Nation remembers the brave U.S. Marines of Iwo Jima, we often visualize the commanding bronze statue resting on the banks of the Potomac River. Most Americans do not realize that this memorial actually depicts the second, much larger flag that was raised on Mt. Suribachi, signaling the courage and determination of the United States to all on Iwo Jima and at sea.

In my home state of Hawaii, the Iwo Jima USMC Memorial Association, Inc. is working to raise the funds necessary to build a memorial to recognize the American Marines who raised the first American flag on Mt. Suribachi. I applaud their efforts, and hope that every citizen across the Nation will support those groups dedicated to recognizing the courage of American Marines everywhere.

DOLA MINERS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was the 43th anniversary of the Dola, WV mine disaster that took the lives of 22 miners. On Thursday, April 25, 1963, Adam Aldridge, Gunther Bardorrek, William Bullough, Kenneth Burnside, Ralph Cado, Delbert Chapman, Carsie Crayton, Dorsey Fincham, William Fowler, George Grogg, Roy Hanna, Glen Haight, Harold Haight, Denzil Hawkinberry, Roy Kerns, James Lester, William Maxwell, Ralph McCloy, John Reed, Ralph Smith, Raymond Swiger, and Robert Welch lost their lives in a methane gas explosion at Clinchfield Coal Company's Compass No. 2 Mine.

Today, flags and flower arrangements line headstones of the fallen miners in family